CLAIMS

1. A method for enhancing exogenous epitope display on an MHC class I molecule, wherein said method comprises the steps of:
(a) inhibiting TAP activity in a cell; and
(b) expressing an epitope-fused MHC class I heavy chain or an epitope-fused β2m in said cell.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises the step of acid treatment.

3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said step of inhibiting TAP activity in a cell comprises the step of contacting said cell with a protein having a TAP inhibitory activity, or the step of introducing a vector encoding said protein into said cell.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said protein having said TAP inhibitory activity is US6 or ICP47.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein said vector is a mammalian cell-infecting virus vector.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said vector is a Sendai virus vector.

7. A mammalian cell, wherein (i) expression of a TAP gene in said cell has been inhibited, said cell comprises a TAP inhibitor, or said cell bears a gene encoding said TAP inhibitor in an expressible way, and wherein (ii) said cell bears a gene encoding an epitope-fused MHC class I heavy chain or an epitope-fused-β2m in an expressible way.

8. A kit for displaying an epitope comprising: (i) a TAP inhibitor or a vector capable of expressing said inhibitor; and (ii) an epitope-fused MHC class I heavy chain or an epitope-fused β2m, or a vector capable of expressing said epitope-fused MHC class I heavy chain or said epitope-fused β2m.

9. A vector capable of expressing both (i) and (ii):
(i) a TAP inhibitor; and
(ii) an epitope-fused MHC class I heavy chain or an epitope-fused β2m.